## What is claimed is:

- A therapeutic composition having plaque formation inhibiting activity, comprising a plaque formation inhibiting effective amount of a tetracycline in a liquid vehicle.
- 2. The therapeutic composition of claim 1, wherein said tetracycline has not been chemically modified to eliminate antimicrobial efficacy.
- 3. The therapeutic composition of claim 1, wherein said therapeutic composition is devoid of a morpholinoamino alcohol or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 4. The therapeutic composition of claim 1, wherein said liquid vehicle comprises at least 35% alcohol by volume.
- 5. The composition of claim 4, wherein said liquid vehicle further comprises a mixture of two or more of thymol, menthol, eucalyptol and methylsalicylate.
- 6. The composition of claim 1, wherein said tetracycline is doxycycline.
- 7. A method of reducing plaque formation on teeth of a mammal, comprising brushing said teeth a composition comprising a plaque formation inhibiting effective amount of a tetracycline in a liquid vehicle.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said mammal is a human.
- 9. The method of claim 7, wherein said tetracycline is doxycycline.
- 10. A method of reducing tooth decay in a mammal, comprising

brushing said teeth with a composition comprising a tooth decay inhibiting effective amount of a tetracycline in a liquid vehicle.

- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said mammal is a human.
- 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said tetracycline is doxycycline.
- 13. A kit, comprising a tetracycline, a liquid vehicle for said tetracycline, and instructions for use of said tetracycline and liquid vehicle for brushing teeth with said tetracycline and liquid vehicle.
- 14. The kit of claim 13, wherein said tetracycline is doxycycline.